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Clean Substitute Specification
Attorney Docket No. 951/50636

Input Circuit for Inductive Speed Sensor

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This application claims the priority of PCT International Application No. PCT/EP00/09798, filed 6 October 2000 and German patent document 199 54 115.9, filed November 11, 1999, the disclosure of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein.

The invention relates to an input circuit for a signal from an inductive speed sensor.

Many internal combustion engines use transmitter wheels with inductive sensors to determine, for example, the position of the crankshaft. Not only are inductive sensors of this type rugged and usable at very high temperatures, they are also extremely inexpensive. However, the amplitude of the signal depends on the speed, covering a range from a few millivolts to more than 100 volts. Electronic circuits are normally used in order to be able to detect low amplitudes at low speeds, on the one hand, while reaching, on the other hand, the highest possible level of noise immunity during normal engine operation, i.e. in the presence of high amplitudes. The electronic circuits either divide the existing sensor voltage in one or more stages, or they switch the switching thresholds of evaluating comparators over.